

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
176th Wing  
Alaska Air National Guard

## **Alaska Air Guardsmen undertake training deployment in support of Operation Jump Start**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 18, 2008

Camp Morena, Calif. — 36 members of the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron arrived at this remote military installation Saturday night to perform a variety of construction projects in support of Operation Jump Start, a federal effort to secure the border between the United States and Mexico.

The Squadron is part of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, based at Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage. Most of the squadron members — a mix of electricians, heavy equipment operators, construction specialists and other engineering personnel — are from Anchorage; others hail from Fairbanks, Kenai and Kodiak.

The deployment is called a DFT, or Deployment for Training, a National Guard Bureau program to get training on real-world projects for members of civil engineer squadrons. During past DFTs the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron has repaired asphalt in Hawaii, built a schoolhouse in Ecuador, renovated a dormitory for U.S. personnel in Israel and performed similar work in locations around the United States.

The Guard members will be here two weeks. In that time they will:

- A Rebuild roads used by the U.S. Border Patrol to monitor this section of the U.S.-Mexico border fence;
- A Rebuild and strengthen a road crossing at the bottom of an often-flooded arroyo;
- A Perform interior construction on a pre-engineered steel classroom building; and
- A Install well pumps to produce water for construction purposes.

“The 176th Civil Engineer Squadron has very aggressively used the DFT program to go all over the world, getting real-world training for our members while doing a lot of good,” said Major Ed Soto, the Squadron's deputy commander, who is leading the deployment. “I am always amazed at how much these dedicated men and women can get done in just two weeks, and I look forward to another successful deployment.”

In addition to the 36 construction and engineering specialists, 12 members of the CE Squadron's Firefighting Section also deployed to a special training facility at March Reserve Air Base near Los Angeles.

- 30 -

*For more information, contact 2Lt. John Callahan, Public Affairs Officer for the 176th Wing, at [john.callahan@gmail.com](mailto:john.callahan@gmail.com)*